

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

December 31, 2006

This report covers events surrounding the African Burial Ground (ABG) Project for the period of October 1 through December 31, 2006.

Introduction

The activities for this reporting period include the transition of the Office of Public Education and Interpretation (OPEI) management to the National Park Service, continued preparation of the three technical volumes for printing and processing the archaeological photograph collection as part of the project's archives.

A brief list of meetings, telephone conferences, etc., held during this reporting period is provided as Appendix A.

Activities of the Reporting Period

Education/Outreach (NPS and OPEI)

The month of October was spent preparing for the transition of OPEI management from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture to the African Burial Ground National Monument, National Park Service. Superintendent Tara Morrison and Park Ranger Douglas Massenburg worked along with OPEI staff to provide for a seamless transition. OPEI educator Monique Singletary joined the National Park Service as a park ranger.

On October 26, a volunteer meeting was held to update the volunteers about the status of the African Burial Ground National Monument as a National Park Service site. More than 35 people attended.

For the remainder of the quarter, the staff focused on providing programs to visitors and preparing for the annual Kwanzaa event. By the end of December, the African Burial Ground staff consisted of the superintendent, supervisory park ranger and two park rangers. Several volunteers also provided invaluable assistance during this time.

The African Burial Ground Film Forum was held at St. Peter's Church on Thursday, October 13, and Friday, October 14. More than 35 people were in attendance each evening. Films included "Liberia: America's Stepchild" with the executive director Mahan Bonetti and producer/director Nancee Oku Bright as guest speakers. Also featured were programs from "Africa: The Story of a Continent" written by Basil Davidson.

On Saturday, December 12, OPEI hosted a Kwanzaa Extravaganza. Highlights included a "Celebration of Kwanzaa" with Camille Yarbrough's Ancestor House Band, Dr. Sherrill Wilson's poem "Celebration/ Reburial: The NY African Burial Ground October 4, 2003," the historical presentation, "Kwanzaa in America," by Chris Moore, dance performances by Something Positive, Eric Tate's film presentation, "I'll Be Free to Travel Home," as well as children's activities and site tours.

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Visitors to the Interpretive Center came from various places including Boston, Connecticut, Washington, D.C., South Carolina, Germany, Martinique, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

Interpretive Center (NPS)

Amaze Design, Inc and Roberta Washington Architects continued with design of the interpretive media (exhibits, film and interactives) and the architectural build-out. Amaze Design, Inc. proceeded into the concept design phase and further development of the visitor center film. Roberta Washington Architects finalized the schematic design for both the visitor center and the administrative space.

The African Burial Ground National Monument rescheduled the open houses scheduled for February 2007 to mid-spring 2007.

Exterior Memorial (GSA)

The concrete work continued during this period along with the underground electrical roughing. The concrete was poured for the radial walls, the underground frost wall around the court, the outer radial slab, the ramp, and the chamber's floor and stairs.

The contractor dug a 10 foot deep trench, installed shoring and ran the plumbing pipes to connect the storm water pipes from under the court to the basement at 290 Broadway. the contractor also installed the PVC pipes scheduled for the pool. The trench was refilled with compacted soil and gravel. The electrician ran conduit inside the building and installed a new transformer and electrical panels.

Technical Studies (Corps/Howard University)

The draft layout of the History and Skeletal Biology volumes were reviewed by Howard University. The draft layout of the Archaeology volume was prepared using a format consistent with the other two volumes. The editorial team prepared a list of recommended edits and changes for review by the original authors.

Archives Project (Corps)

The processing of the sizeable collection of photographs from the Customs House Archaeological Record Group continued with the development of a database for the entire collection. The project materials from John Milner Associates have been received and preliminary inventories for this material have been prepared. Coordination to retrieve the project materials from Central Connecticut State University is ongoing.

Samples (Corps)

The long-term curation of the samples at Howard University is being considered. St. Louis District and GSA are coordinating with Howard University regarding this potential option.

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Appendix A

**Timeline of Meetings and Telephone Conferences conducted by the ABG Project Team
October 1 to December 31, 2006**

October 4 and 18 HU/SRI/Corps Conference Call regarding Report Preparation

November 1, 15, and 29 HU/SRI/Corps Conference Call regarding Report Preparation

December 13 and 21 HU/SRI/Corps Conference Call regarding Report Preparation

Office of Public Education and Interpretation Activities

OCTOBER

DATE (TIME)	INSTITUTION	SERVICE	PEOPLE (#)	Walk- in/ABG Q&A
10.2.06	Bronx Preparatory School General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	30	16
10.3.06	General Public			7
10.4.06	HS of Economics & Finance General Public	Film/ Off-site	100	10
10.5.06	HS of Economics & Finance General Public	Film/ Off-site	28	8
10.6.06	IS 98 (Bay Academy) John F. Kennedy HS	Site Tour & Film Pres. Film/ Off-site	13 90	
10.10.06	P.S. 132 HS of Economics and Finance	Film/ Off-site Site Tour	72 32	
10.11.06	The James Baldwin School General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	26	10
10.12.06	ABG Film Forum (St. Peter's Church) General Public	Event: Films	30	5
10.13.06	Benjamin Banneker Academy ABG Film Forum (St. Peter's Church) General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres. Event: Films	45 35	5
10.16.06	The James Baldwin School General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	26	12
10.17.06	Satellite Academy General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	30	10
10.18.06	Benjamin Banneker Academy General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	45	20
10.19.06	HS of Economics and Finance Hofstra University General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres. Site Tour & Film Pres.	32 12	10

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10.20.06	HS of Economics & Finance General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	30	8
10.23.06	General Public			8
10.24.06	James Baldwin School General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	26	20
10.25.06	Acorn C.H.S.	Site Tour & Film Pres. Historical Overview	30	11
	USEPA-Region 2 General Public		10	
10.26.06	General Public	Volunteer Meeting	35	23
10.27.06	Retired City Workers General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	10	10
10.30.06	Columbia U. General Public	Offsite/ Post Visit	30	8
10.31.06	Acorn CHS General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	30	6
Subtotals			802	206
TOTAL			1008	

NOVEMBER

DATE (TIME)	INSTITUTION	SERVICE	PEOPLE (#)	Walk-in/ABG Q&A
11.1.06	General Public			24
11.2.06	General Public			9
11.3.06	General Public			20
11.6.06	St. John's University John Jay College	Site Tour & Film Pres.	5	10
		Site Tour & Film Pres.	20	
11.7.06	General Public			
11.13.06	Bronx Expeditionary Learning HS	Site Tour & Film Pres.	41	
11.14.06	NY Housing Authority Ocean Hill Community Center	Film/Off-site	18	
11.15.06	Lorraine Hansberry	Site Tour & Film Pres.	33	
11.16.06	Lorraine Hansberry	Site Tour & Film Pres.	30	
11.17.06	Pan African Student Union Kean University	Site Tour & Film Pres.	50	
11.20.06	Erasmus Hall: Humanities	Site Tour & Film Pres.	20	
11.21.06	Lorraine Hansberry	Site Tour & Film Pres.	30	
11.22.06	Lorraine Hansberry	Site Tour & Film Pres.	30	
11.24.06	General Public			16
11.27.06	General Public			13
11.28.06	General Public			7
11.29.06	Urban Explorers	Site Tour & Film Pres.	30	
11.30.06	General Public			13
Subtotals			195	112
TOTAL			307	

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DECEMBER

DATE (TIME)	INSTITUTION	SERVICE	PEOPLE (#)	Walk-in/ABG Q&A
12.1.06	General Public			29
12.4.06	YABC/ John F. Kennedy HS	Site Tour & Film Pres.	20	
	General Public			11
12.5.06	General Public			5
12.6.06	General Public			8
12.7.06	General Public			15
12.8.06	Harlem Your Way! General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	55	
				2
12.11.06	General Public			13
12.12.06	Erasmus- Humanities General Public	Off-site/Film	40	
				5
12.13.06	Partnership for Parks NYU	Site Tour & Film Pres. Off-site/Film	3 18	
12.14.06	General Public			25
12.16.06	Head start Kwanzaa	Site Tour Event	30 300	
12.18.06	General Public			8
12.19.06	PS 134 General Public	Off-site/Film	30	
				5
12.20.06	PS 124 General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	30	
				36
12.21.06	The Young Women's Leadership School General Public	Site Tour & Film Pres.	50	
				54
12.22.06	General Public			7
12.26.06	General Public			6
12.27.06	General Public			10
12.28.06	General Public			10
12.29.06	General Public			12
Subtotals			421	261
TOTAL			682	